

Division of Civil Rights & Public Trust

Protecting Delawareans' Rights



Delaware Department of Justice



Attorney General Kathy Jennings

New Castle County (302) 577-8600
Kent County (302) 739-7641
Sussex County (302) 739-7641

Division of Civil Rights & Public Trust Hotline (302) 577-5400

Para asistencia en Español (877) 851-0482

Delaware Department of Justice
820 North French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

Dear Fellow Delawarean,

When it comes to protecting our families, safeguarding our wallets, knowing our rights as victims of crime, or understanding how the law can make our communities better, information is the key.

The mission of the Delaware Department of Justice is to protect Delawareans from harm by enforcing the law and being your advocate. We're here to help you, and also to give you the information you need to help yourself and your family.

Inside this brochure, you'll find answers to some of the most common questions about the Division of Civil Rights & Public Trust, and how to contact the Department of Justice. Together, we can keep Delaware safe and strong.

Kathy Jennings
Attorney General



DIVISION OF CIVIL RIGHTS & PUBLIC TRUST

The Office of Civil Rights & Public Trust was created in 2015 to ensure that these important issues are addressed and to provide a point of contact for members of the public. In 2020, Attorney General Kathy Jennings successfully advocated for legislation, elevating the Office to a permanent Division of Civil Rights and Public Trust (DCRPT).

The Division is charged with protecting individual rights and liberties of Delawareans, enforcement of laws designed to ensure citizen trust in government, and conducting investigations where the Department of Justice's other responsibilities might present the appearance of a conflict of interest.

IS THIS THE RIGHT PLACE?

Under Delaware law, the Department of Justice can take action if "patterns and practice" of discrimination exist. **The DOJ cannot provide individual legal advice or take on individual cases.** Individual discrimination cases are, by law, the jurisdiction of several agencies, including:

Employment discrimination:
Delaware Department of Labor

Public accommodations discrimination:
Division of Human and Civil Rights

Housing discrimination:
Division of Human and Civil Rights

WHAT WE DO

- Investigate and prosecute all hate crimes in the State under Title 11 § 1304. Hate crimes occurs when a person commits a crime motivated by their belief, perception, or hate towards another based on race, religion, sexual orientation and more.
- Enforce laws designed to promote citizens' trust in government, including election laws, laws governing the use of public funds, and laws governing the conduct of public officials and employees.
- Launch investigations where the Department of Justice's other responsibilities might present a conflict of interest, such as investigations of the use of force by law enforcement officers.
- Enforce Delaware laws protecting the individual rights and liberties of Delawareans including civil rights pattern and practice violations (e.g. housing, employment, education, disability rights etc.).
- Consider petitions under the DOJ Actual Innocence Program of persons who are incarcerated where empirical evidence establishes their innocence.
- Provide immigration assistance by counseling and helping residents of Delaware apply for citizenship and/or immigration benefits. Serves as a liaison with federal agencies (USCIS and the National Visa Center) and non-profit organizations on case status and other resources.

DCRPT reviews and responds to civil rights complaints alleging deprivations of, or interference with, civil rights and civil liberties. DCRPT may bring enforcement action where appropriate, may mediate disputes, or may refer complainants to other resources.

For more information,
Visit our website at:
<https://attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/publictrust/>
Or call us at (302) 577-5400

CONTACT US

Delawareans wishing to file a complaint with this office should visit the Department of Justice website, fill out an online complaint form, and include all relevant information including their contact information.

The complaint form will automatically be sent to the Division of Civil Rights & Public Trust.

Please note that DCRPT **cannot provide individual legal advice**, and in some instances, hiring a private attorney may be necessary. The Division can provide contact information for legal aid services and attorney-referral services if hiring a private attorney is necessary.

When a complaint form is filed, the complainant will receive an e-mail or letter from the Division of Civil Rights & Public Trust acknowledging receipt of the complaint and assigning a case number to the complaint. The complaint will then be reviewed by an attorney to determine whether sufficient basis exists for action by DCRPT. Our office will then communicate a decision to the complainant.

Complaint Form:

<https://attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/publictrust/complaint-form/>

Phone: (302) 577-5400

Immigration Assistance Phone:

(302) 577-8390

Email: PublicTrust@delaware.gov

